

Annual Report to the Environmental Review Commission
Pursuant to S.L. 2014-120, Sec. 29 REFORM AGENCY REVIEW OF ENGINEERING WORK
January 2016 - Updated February 2, 2017

Name of Local Government Unit: Wake County Environment Services Department, Wastewater Management Section.

Regulated program subject to reporting requirements:

- ☐ Sedimentation/erosion control
- ☐ Stormwater
- ☒ Water/sewer
- ☐ Cross-connection
- ☐ 401 certifications
- ☐ Other *Type program name*



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☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program implemented procedures whereby plan reviewers distinguish between plan changes that are required by statutory or other legal authority and those that the reviewer offers as suggestions for improvement. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (b)(1) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 1. below.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program identifies the statutory or regulatory authority for any revisions or requests for additional information that are required by the program in order to grant the requested plan permit, approval, or license. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (b)(2) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 1. below.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program implemented procedures for local governments to follow when (1) a Professional Engineer submits a sealed design or practice that is not in the local government's guidance, manuals, or standard operating procedures, and (2) the submitting Professional Engineer requests additional internal review of that design or practice. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 2. below.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program established a procedure whereby the plan reviewer's supervisor OR the approving/delegating state agency can provide further review and oversight of these design details. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 2. below.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program either employs a Professional Engineer who can conduct further review of these innovative designs, or maintains a list of consulting Professional Engineers of the local government unit's choice that may conduct this review, if requested by and paid for by the submitting Professional Engineer. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 2. below.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program established an informal internal process to address disputes when a plan reviewer identifies a change to the plans as being "required" under a specific identified legal authority. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (c)(2) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 3. below.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program discontinued use of the word "engineer" in the job titles of all program employees whose responsibilities include review of plans in affected programs, *unless* those employees hold Professional Engineer licenses. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (h) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 4. below.

Name of local government unit: Wake County

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program reviewed the titles of all employees conducting plan reviews for this program. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (h)(1) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 4. below.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program proposed revisions to those employees' job titles in order to eliminate use of the word "engineer" when publicly identifying those employees, if those employees do not hold Professional Engineer licenses. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29. (h)(2) for further details about this requirement.

See Additional Information 4. below.

Additional Information:

1. *Identify "required" vs. "suggested" changes.* Wake County's plan review checklists were modified to note standards and reference statutory authority or other legal authority (i.e. 15A

NCAC 18A .1900 and Rules Governing Wastewater Treatment and Dispersal Systems in Wake County) for requirements.

2. *Innovative designs involving a Professional Engineer, second review by PE.* Process effective all of 2016: If a second review by a PE was requested, a PE with Wake County was available to conduct the second review. However, no requests were received in 2016 for a second review. Furthermore, In the Wastewater Management Section, all issues identified by the reviewer are verified by our In House Wastewater Engineer before the comments are sent to the design engineer. Requests for additional review may be escalated to review by the Water Quality Director, PE and/or signed off by the Department Head, also a PE.

3. *Disputes involving changes that are “required”.* The informal process for resolution is to escalate disputes to plan review’s supervisor or the delegating State agency (if applicable). The Rules Governing Wastewater Treatment and Dispersal Systems in Wake County provides a formal process for an appeal of a wastewater plan disapproval to the Director of Water Quality, and formally through the North Carolina General Statutes 130A-24(b)&(c) and Wake County Human Services-Environmental Health Division Rules of Appeal.

4. *Job titles.* During 2015 until March 16, 2016, Wake County employed personnel classified as an Environmental Engineer/Consultant to conduct plan reviews. However, when communicating with the public, employees used one of the following title: Environmental Consultant. The Environmental Services Director pursued changing titles for this classified position with Human Resources to comply with Session Law 2014-120, Section 29(h) and North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 89C. The title of Environmental Engineer/Consultant remained the official title until it was reclassification to Environmental Consultant, Band 30 and became effective March 16, 2016.